United Nations A/69/823–S/2015/195

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 March 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 129
Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the commentary by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the wrong interpretation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of the statement by the Prime Minister of Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the commentary issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 129, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Yevhen Perebyinis

We were surprised to learn about the Russian Foreign Ministry's intention to seek a reaction from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the interview of the Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk. In this case, Russia should also seek the opinion of many other European countries to which after the Second World War the Soviet Union had exported a totalitarian regime and where it had brutally suppressed any attempts at democratic change, as what happened in Budapest, Prague, Warsaw and many other capitals of the so-called "socialist camp".

By its inadequate and propagandist interpretation of the Prime Minister's statements, Russia, as a self-proclaimed successor of the USSR and, unfortunately, also a successor of its imperialist traditions, proves only one fact: that for contemporary Russia, Soviet military and ideological occupation of Central and Eastern Europe, including East Germany, was just as normal as today's Russian occupation of Crimea and the Donbas.

It was precisely this and nothing else, what Arseniy Yatsenyuk meant in his conversation with the German media. And no one else except Russian journalists and diplomats attempted to find a different context in his words — a context that was not there and could never have been there.

Just in the same way that the Soviet Union had divided Europe into ideological camps after the Second World War, contemporary Russia tries to divide the continent into spheres of influence and to conserve dictator regimes by creating and supporting "frozen" conflicts. But just as 25 years ago, the Europeans choose freedom, today the Ukrainian people have clearly made their choice not to live in a Soviet-style world or in the "Russian world", but to become part of a civilized, democratic and law-abiding European family.

Unfortunately, it is exactly the Russian aggression in Ukraine that poses the main threat to these core European values. And that is why the main task of the whole civilized world today is to stop Russia's attempts to carve up Europe once again according to its aggressive interests, and to make Russia respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other States and return to a civilized format of international relations.